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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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East Germany

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Decisions of the Council of Ministers Regarding  
Electric Power

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1. The East German Council of Ministers decided on 25 June 1953 on measures to be taken that would assure a continued and uninterrupted distribution of electricity to nonindustrial consumers (Bevölkerung). This decision was the result of a suggestion made on 21 June 1953 by the Politburo of the SED. The measures included:

- a. increasing the speed of repairs to damaged generating plants,
- b. the establishment of an operational reserve by cutting down the consumption of electricity at several chemical and metallurgical plants during peak load hours, and
- c. the introduction of strict economy measures.

From mid-June 1953 through the beginning of July 1953, nonindustrial consumers were supplied electricity without any power shut-offs (abschaltfreie Versorgung). However, after 6 July 1953, power shut-offs were reintroduced.

2. The following table indicates the development of power shut-offs during the evening peak load period. The figures listed indicate average values.

	Total Shut-offs	Shut-offs: Nonindustrial
July	150 megawatts	103 megawatts
August	257 "	124 "
September	336 "	184 "
October	332 "	216 "
November	271 "	164 "
(of the above for 15-30 November)	256 "	103 "

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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3. Power shut-offs for industrial and nonindustrial consumers during October amounted to 14% of generating capacity and 4% of the electricity carried by the power grid system.
4. The reasons for the reintroduction of power shut-offs were as follows:
  - a. The former State Secretariat for Power failed to achieve the fulfillment of those measures contained in the decision of the Council of Ministers, namely the reduction of power consumption by production plants in the heavy industry sector so that an operational reserve of 230 megawatts could be established.
  - b. Insufficient control on the part of the various production ministries in compliance with power consumption directives.
  - c. Insufficient education and mobilization of nonindustrial consumers to allow introduction of a strict economy program; insufficient mobilization of industrial plants and power generating plants to adhere to strict economy measures allowing maximum power output for the public (oeffentlich) grid system.
  - d. Undisciplined power consumption during peak load hours.
  - e. Neglect of the repair program resulting in the nonfulfillment of the task of increasing power capacity.
5. The situation became even more critical through the retention of an inflexible centralized power shut-off system. This system failed to generate the motivation at Bezirk and Kreis necessary to carry out the strictest power economy program. In addition, the technically and politically qualified cadres in the power industry were not sufficiently oriented in relation to the new tasks and were not given adequate (ideological) tools. Thus, the inflexible power shut-off system and the faulty power allocation system resulted in a broad resistance movement against power shut-offs, which achieved success in individual localities.
6. The central conference on electric power (Energie-Konferenz) of 13 November 1953 initiated the fight against existing deficiencies. It showed that through compliance with earlier power consumption decrees and the mobilization of all workers that uninterrupted distribution of power to non-industrial consumers could be achieved. The fulfillment of this task centers about two primary objectives:
  - a. the implementation of a more rapid increase in power generating capacities through new constructions and suitable general repairs of existing facilities.
  - b. the implementation of a strict economy program on the part of industrial and nonindustrial consumers.
7. The revised 1953 economic plan calls for putting into operation 333.6 megawatts capacity. In 1953, 196.69 megawatts capacity will be put into operation, leaving 137.25 megawatts capacity to be carried over (Ueberhang) into 1954. Of the generating installations projected for 1953, plan revision will cause 0.66 megawatts capacity to remain unfulfilled. In 1953, 25.5 megawatts capacity will be put into operation above and beyond the 196.96 megawatt capacity mentioned above.
8. The generating capacities to be put into operation in 1953 and the remainder to be carried over into 1954 are broken down as follows:

<u>Plan Allottee</u> <u>(Planleistung)</u>	<u>Plan</u> <u>1953</u>	<u>1953 Ful-</u> <u>fillment</u>	<u>Remainder</u> <u>for 1954</u>	<u>Not</u> <u>Realizable</u>	<u>Additions</u> <u>not planned</u>
Electric Power Sector	129.75	59.7	70.05	-	-
Coal Sector	49.15	9.55	39.6	-	5.5
Chemistry Sector	39.5	22.84	16.2	0.46	-

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<u>Plan Allotment</u> <u>(Plantreager)</u>	<u>Plan</u> <u>1953</u>	<u>1953 Ful-</u> <u>fillment</u>	<u>Remainder</u> <u>for 1954</u>	<u>Not</u> <u>Realizable</u>	<u>Additions</u> <u>not planned</u>
Smelting Sector	5.0	-	5.0	-	-
Heavy Machine Construc- tion Sector	0.6	-	0.6	-	-
General Machine Construction Sector	1.0	-	1.0	-	-
Light Industry Sector	16.6	11.6	4.8	0.2	-
East Berlin Magistrate	82.0	82.0	-	-	-
SAG	10.0	10.0	-	-	20.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>333.60</b>	<b>195.69</b>	<b>137.25</b>	<b>0.66</b>	<b>25.5</b>

9. The Council of Ministers decreed (date unknown) that the generating capacity of 137.25 megawatts left over from the 1953 power program is to be carried over into the 1954 power program and is to be rendered operative by 1 July 1954.
10. The projected terminal dates for rendering generating capacities operative are as follows for the various installations operating under the 1953 power program:

<u>Installation</u> <u>(Object)</u>	<u>Capacity</u> <u>(in megawatts)</u>	<u>Terminal</u> <u>Date</u>
<b>Power Sector</b>		
Power Plant Peenemuende M 1	3.5	1 December 1953
Power Plant Lanta	3.2	20 December 1953
Power Plant Liebknecht	8.5	31 December 1953
Power Plant Gera	1.6	1 December 1953
Power Plant Pulenitz	2.5	31 December 1953
Power Plant Planen	2.5	31 December 1953
Power Plant Oelsnitz	0.3	10 December 1953
<b>Coal Sector</b>		
Muecheln II	1.2	1 December 1953
Thumna	0.25	1 December 1953
<b>Chemistry Sector</b>		
Stassfurt Soda	2.0	1 December 1953
Frankfurt	6.0	31 December 1953
Bernburg Soda	4.0	1 December 1953
Luotakendorf	2.0	31 December 1953
<b>Light Industry</b>		
Wittenberg Import	4.0	31 December 1953
Crossen Import	4.0	31 December 1953

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<u>Installation</u> <u>(Object)</u>	<u>Capacity</u> <u>(in megawatts)</u>	<u>Terminal</u> <u>Date</u>
East Berlin Magistrate		
Krisia Buch Hospital	2.0	31 December 1953
Power Plant Klingenberg	55.0	31 December 1953
Power Plant Rummelsburg	15.0	1 December 1953
Power Plant Rummelsburg	10.0	31 December 1953

11. The projected terminal dates for generating capacities to be rendered operative which have been carried over into 1954 (Ueberhaenge) are as follows:

<u>Installation</u> <u>(Object)</u>	<u>Capacity</u> <u>(in megawatts)</u>	<u>Terminal</u> <u>Date</u>
Energy Sector		
Power Plant Peenemuende M II	12.5	15 January 1954
Power Plant Erfurt	15.0	1 February 1954
Power Plant Magdeburg	25.0	1 February 1954
Power Plant Liebknecht	12.5	10 February 1954
Power Plant Stralsund	4.0	1 February 1954
Power Plant Plessa	0.75	1 July 1954
Power Plant Eichicht	0.3	1 July 1954
Coal Sector		
Lauchhammer	12.5	1 February 1954
Glueckauf	8.0	1 March 1954
Nachbarstedt	3.1	20 January 1954
Theissen	16.0	1 March 1954
Chemistry Sector		
Kali Unterbreisbach	2.0	1 April 1954
Puersterwalde	3.2	1 April 1954
Loetschendorf	11.0	1 February 1954
Light Industry Sector		
Merseburg	3.2	1 June 1954
Neustadt Leder	1.6	1 May 1954
Smelting Sector		
Monsfeld Combine	5.0	1 April 1954
Heavy Machine Construction Sector		
Dresden Turbine	0.6	1 July 1954

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Installation  
(Object)Capacity  
(in megawatts)Terminal  
Date

## General Machine Construction Sector

TEO<sup>2</sup>

1.0

1 February 1954

12. The 1954 plan calls for additional generating capacities as follows:

## Ministry for Heavy Industry

679.8 megawatts

Former State Secretariat for Power 321.5 megawatts

Former State Secretariat for Coal 151.0 "

Former Ministry for Smelting Sector 17.5 "

Former State Secretariat for Chemistry 129.0 "

Plants after 1 January 1954<sup>3</sup> 55.0 "

## Ministry for Machine Construction

6.0 "

Former Ministry for Heavy Machine Construction 0.6 "

Former Ministry for General Machine Construction 5.4 "

Ministry for Light Industry 23.6 "

Ministry for Foodstuff Industry 7.6 "

Ministry for Railroads 25.0 "

Ministry of Health 0.6 "

East Berlin Magistrate 3.2 "

District Councils 1.2 "

741.0 MW

13. In addition to the 700.1 megawatts capacity agreed upon by the Minister for Heavy Industry and the Minister for Machine Construction, the 1954 electric power program provides for the following generating capacities:

Gruoskauf Mine Power Plant 8.0 megawatts

Nachtstadter Mine Power Plant 3.1 "

Hydrogenation Plant Luetzkendorf 12.0 "

Hydrogenation Plant Zeitz (Import) 10.0 "

Grunhainichen Paper Plant (Import) 7.2 "

Kranau Power Plant 3.0 "

The importation, installation and operation of the power generating machinery contained in the import plan, intended for the Zeitz hydrogenation plant and the Grunhainichen paper plant, are to be assured through special measures to be undertaken by the Minister for Heavy Industry in conjunction with the Minister for Foreign and International Trade.

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14. The numerous cases of damage to generating equipment and the nonfulfillment of the repair plan have been factors which have made the power situation in the second half of the year a critical one. Some of the basic causes acting detrimentally on the power situation were:
  - a. the low quality of repairs hitherto carried out and insufficient maintenance of equipment
  - b. failure to carry out general repairs on generating equipment and the failure to coordinate general repair plans with production plans of the machine construction industry
  - c. the lack of technically qualified cadres in the power plants, the repair plants and the state manufacturing plants of the power sector
  - d. the poor qualifications of power plant maintenance personnel
15. The following measures will have to be undertaken to insure the power generating capacities of power plants included in the power grid system:
  - a. the Minister for Heavy Industry will be responsible for coordinating with the Minister for Machine Construction the general repair plan pertaining to the generating capacities of the main power generating installations of the power distribution grid by 15 December 1953. The total repair plan is to include repairs on generating units (turbines and generators) with a capacity of about 2,400 megawatts and steam generating installations with a capacity of 16,300 t/h. Of this amount, namely 2,400 megawatts capacity, at least 1,500 megawatts capacity is to consist of general repairs. The scope of the general repair plan and the terminal dates therein as agreed upon by both ministries will be binding on the power and machine construction plants
  - b. the trade unions are to support the repair program by organizing and controlling quality repairs carried out in the speediest possible manner
  - c. the ministers, in whose sectors general repairs on main generating installations are carried out, are responsible for cutting down the time during which machinery under repair is idle by introducing the rapid repair method developed by Nationalmeisterer, Bowens and Mueller
  - d. the ministries having under their control generating units which supply the power distribution grid are responsible for the fulfillment of repairs according to the plan; they will report monthly to the Minister for Heavy Industry on the progress of the repairs
  - e. the Minister for Heavy Industry is responsible for working out by 4 January 1954 a program which will improve the quality of and expand the number of technical personnel in the power generating industry. At the same time he will work out a testing program to be applied to power plant maintenance personnel and repair brigades
16. The 1953 plan for mobilizing power reserves was fulfilled and most of the power reserves were exploited. For 1954, it will be necessary, nevertheless, to render operative those power generating facilities which are still idle. To achieve this, the following measures apply:
  - a. the Minister for Heavy Industry will, by 15 January 1954, submit a list to the Presidium of the Council of Ministers of the power generating facilities to be rendered operative in 1954. This list is to include the idle power generating installations which can be put back into operation and maintained in operation with the proviso that (a) the fuel supply situation permits (b) reconstruction costs are low and (c) operation of these installations can be carried out profitably
  - b. power plant allottees are held responsible for using the fuel specifically

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supplied to them for the generation of electricity.

6. the power production of installations activated in 1954 will go exclusively to the Bezirk in which it is located for three months before the installation is assigned a power plan quota.
17. The intensification of general repairs on main power generating installations has made it possible to extend the time between repairs and thus has made it possible to keep more generating capacity operating for the power grid system. To maintain and expand the resulting increased generating capacity:
  - a. the Minister for Heavy Industry is made responsible for compiling by 1 January 1954 a list of power plants in the power grid system which are the base load power producers and whose generating equipment is in condition to operate 8,500 hours before another general overhauling of the equipment is necessary. In addition, the operating time between general overhauling is to be determined for power plants not classified as base power load producers
  - b. a greater number of condensers to compensate for reactance current are to be installed at power consumption sites to decrease power loss during transmission. Power inspectors will designate individual consumers who are to install condensers. The consumers thus designated are responsible for placing orders as soon as possible with machine construction plants that produce condensers. The Minister for Machine Construction will in turn determine the plants producing condensers and, where necessary, expand the capacity of such plants so as to produce a larger variety of condensers
  - c. the Minister for Heavy Industry is to have a plan worked out by the Main Administration for Electric-Power by 1 July 1954 for the reconstruction of power transmission facilities so as to cope with the planned increase of generating capacities of power plants. The Minister for Heavy Industry will submit the plan to the State Planning Commission for comments and the Council of Ministers for approval.
18. The following measures are to be undertaken to assure economical consumption of power, especially during periods of low supply:
  - a. the Minister for Heavy Industry will submit to the State Planning Commission quarterly reports on the generating capacities and the power carried in the grid system for all of East Germany. He will submit monthly reports to the State Planning Commission on loss or change in the amount of power generated caused by repair work or damaged equipment.
  - b. the Main Administration for Electric-Power and the State Planning Commission are to determine the needs of power allottees and adjust them to conform with production plans and the needs of nonindustrial consumers. In the process, a consigned reserve (kontingentierte Reserve) of up to 100 megawatts is to be established.
  - c. the Main Administration for Electric-Power is to combine power allotments which have been made to individual consumers within the Bezirk into a monthly total allotment for the Bezirk.
  - d. the Deputy Minister for the Electric-Power sector is to institute a systematic education program in production plants, in schools and training institutes and among the population through the use of the press, film, radio, and the block and house wardens in pressing for the economical consumption of electricity.
  - e. the chairmen of the Bezirk councils will be informed of the first total allotment for their Bezirk for December 1953 by the Minister for Heavy Industry. The Bezirk council chairman will then be in a position to organize the economical consumption of electricity and will therefore be able to bring about the distribution of electricity free from power shut-offs. In addition the Bezirk chairman, in conjunction with the National Front and the warer

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organizations, are to institute both a broad educational program and an overall control of the allotments made to industrial consumers and to a Bezirk for the population.

1. **Comment:** "Die Abschaltungen fuer Industrie und Bevoolkerung betrugen im Monat Oktober 14% der elektrischen Leistung und 4% der elektrischen Arbeit des Verbundnetzes."
2. **Comment:** Fabrik fuer Transformatoren- und Hochspannungsschalter, Berlin-Oberschoeneweide.
3. **Comment:** "Betriebe ab 1.1.1951"

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